

August 23, 2012

Angela Graziano
290 Park Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Dear Ms. Graziano:

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 2012 to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson concerning contaminated ground water in the vicinity of the former Grumman Aerospace Corporation facility and Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Bethpage, New York. Although the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency for these sites, the EPA is working with NYSDEC, the U.S. Department of the Navy and the impacted water districts on the development of a comprehensive strategy to address contamination from the sites. The EPA has dedicated an enormous amount of staff and technical resources to address ground water contamination from these sites.

The cleanup of complex ground water contamination sites such as the former Grumman Aerospace Corporation facility and Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant requires a comprehensive approach that includes the remediation of source areas, delineation of the nature and extent of contamination, evaluation and implementation of alternatives to clean up the contaminated ground water and a long-term monitoring program. This type of management strategy defines priorities and establishes a range of short, medium and long-term actions to address site-related contamination effectively.

The EPA recognizes the concerns identified in your letter and has made addressing contamination from the sites a priority. The agency is committed to a cleanup of the sites that is conducted in the most efficient and timely manner with input from affected communities. The EPA will continue to work with the Navy, NYSDEC, impacted water suppliers and the public to formulate a strategy that sets priorities, thoroughly evaluates viable alternatives and leads to a comprehensive solution to this complex issue.

If you have further questions, please contact me at 212-637-4287.

Sincerely,

Peter Mannino, Chief
Western New York Remediation Section
Emergency and Remedial Response Division